



**EASY MONEY WEEKDAYS**  
@ 8:13, 12:13 & 4:13



HALIFAX • TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009

metronews.ca

## Celebrity Buzz

**Aniston ready to date?**

pg 18



## Heavy rainfall warning brings flooding fears

**PHILIP CROUCHER**  
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**WEATHER** Flooding could be a major problem again for some areas of the Halifax Regional Municipality with heavy rains forecast today after being scheduled to begin overnight.

A heavy rainfall warning was issued yesterday by Environment Canada with between 25 and 40 millimetres of rain expected along the Atlantic coast, and lesser amounts inland.

With river levels already high from heavy rains and melting snow late last week, the possibility of localized flooding in low-lying areas is high.

The provincial government's Emergency Management Office issued a warning yesterday for residents to urge caution in preparing for flooding, and the cleanup afterwards.

"If we get the numbers they're talking about, it could certainly cause some problems," said Steve Smith of the province's transportation department.

## Local pg 2

**Schools ready to play anthem**

## Sports pg 11

**Jays win home opener**



## Tartan Day

Olivia Riesgo, 9, front, and fellow Halifax Highland Dance Association dancers Emily Siepierski, left, and Elizabeth Hughes perform at a Tartan Day celebration at Province House yesterday. The event featured Scottish dancing and music as well as a reading of a Tartan Day proclamation.

## Halifax woman takes command of HMCS Halifax

**MILITARY** Commander Josée Kurtz made history yesterday, as the Halifax resident became the first female commanding officer of a principal Canadian warship.

Kurtz assumed command as the 11th commanding officer of HMCS Halifax during a morning ceremony on the ship.

She succeeds Cmdr. Art McDonald, who took over HMCS Halifax in June 2007.

"I am extremely proud to assume command of Halifax," Kurtz said in a navy news release.

Kurtz was born in Quebec and now lives in Halifax with her husband and daughter.

She will be speaking to the media today about her new position. **METRO HALIFAX**

## First

- The first female commanding officer of a smaller navy ship was Lt.-Cmdr. Marta Mulkins in July 2003.

# Tory travel too costly: Grits

**PAUL MCLEOD**  
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**The provincial Liberals said yesterday the Rodney MacDonald government should cut its "bloated" travel budget before raising charges on Nova Scotians.**

The Tories' travel budget rose by 40 per cent from 2004 to 2008, according to public accounts documents. Last year the province spent \$27.7 million on travel — about \$8 million more than four

years earlier.

Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil criticized the Tories for raising user fees across the province last week for a total of \$5.2 million when that money could have been saved from the travel budget.

"Perhaps the premier should look at rolling back his own government's travel costs before nickel-and-diming Nova Scotians with increases across the board," McNeil said.

McNeil added he has no problem with government

**"Perhaps the premier should look at rolling back his own government's travel costs before nickel-and-diming Nova Scotians with increases across the board."**

Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil

travelling, but there's been no economic growth to justify a 40 per cent increase in costs.

But Deputy Premier Angus MacIsaac hit back that the increases were justified for the same reasons opposition party leaders had their travel budgets

doubled since 2007.

"Obviously they've needed more money to do their job," MacIsaac said. "The same justification holds (that) employees of government are going to have additional costs."

Travel costs consist of mileage, airfare, accommo-

dation and other expenses. Higher gas prices upped car and plane costs, but other prices have jumped as well.

In 2004, the government gave staffers an allowance of \$7 for lunch and \$13.50 for supper. Employees now get \$12 to spend on lunch and \$20 for supper.

"We (ministers) OK all out-of-province travel," MacIsaac said. "That has to be justified. In recent months we're looking at that even more closely than we have in the past."



## TATTOO MUSIC MEETINGS, APRIL 6th-9th

Preparations for the Tattoo's 30th anniversary (July 1-8) are well under way. Music and group leaders from around the world are now meeting in Halifax. As things heat up in anticipation of the biggest and best Tattoo ever, we want to welcome all the delegates and remind you to get your tickets. With performers from 9 countries, it will be the show of a lifetime - don't miss it.



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## Maple producers optimistic for good season

Maple production started later than usual this year, but some producers are optimistic it will still be a good season. Jim Bezanson of Swan's Maple Products in Central New Annan said since sap began to flow in mid-March his best collection was this past week. **METRO HALIFAX**

# Investing in technology

## Feds offer \$200M for small- and mid-sized businesses

JON TATTRIE  
for Metro Halifax

**Ottawa invested \$200 million into helping small- and mid-sized enterprises turn technology into money yesterday.**

Science and Technology Minister Gary Goodyear made the announcement at Acadian Seaplants in Dartmouth, a company that flourished with similar funding.

The federal government also handed \$7.9 million to Atlantic Canada universities, including Dalhousie and Saint Mary's.

"Canadians have always been innovators," Goodyear said. "Our track record on getting those great ideas out of our minds and into our living rooms ... could use improvement."

The money will be funnelled through the National Research Institute's Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) to help 1,400 companies. Thirty-million dollars of the enterprise funding will go to helping businesses hire 1,000 post-secondary graduates.

The money is part of the Conservative government's economic stimulus plan, and Goodyear said it was a nice change to bring good economic news.

"We need to encourage



Science and Technology Minister Gary Goodyear, left, shakes hands with Acadian Seaplants president Jean-Paul Deveau as Pat Mortimer, vice-president of Technology and Industry Support at the National Research Council, looks on yesterday after Acadian was presented with a Canadian Innovation Leader certificate from the NRC.

the growth of jobs just as Acadian Seaplants has grown jobs in Atlantic Canada and elsewhere," he said.

Goodyear marked the "remarkable accomplishments" of the company with an Innovative Leader certificate.

Acadian Seaplant president Jean-Paul Deveau said IRAP support played a key

role in turning the company into a global player. The Burnside firm developed a technique for cultivating seaweed in land-based tanks.

"We continue to grow because of the innovation that we have been able to move from the lab to the marketplace," he said.

"This is an example of how industry and government

can work together to enhance Canada's economy."

Goodyear earlier announced \$1.4 million to establish a new research chair at Saint Mary's. Dalhousie will get \$5.2 million for five renewed research chairs.

"These are in a variety of research areas. These are tier-one scientists," Goodyear said.

## Two in vehicle going wrong way arrested

PHILIP CROUCHER  
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Two Halifax Regional Police cars received minor damage after a chase involving a vehicle driven by an alleged impaired driver going the wrong way on Highway 111 near Mic Mac Mall in Dartmouth late Sunday evening.

Police said an officer was driving the correct way on Highway 111 when he saw the vehicle coming directly at him. Following a pursuit, the suspect's car hit the rear bumper of one police car, then rolled into a second one before coming to a stop.

Police took the two men in the vehicle into custody. "He had to get off the road to let the driver get

by," said Halifax police spokesperson Const. Jeff Carr. "He narrowly missed a number of other vehicles apparently, too, swerving in and out of lanes."

"Fortunately, nobody was injured."

Matthew Crowell, 24, was arraigned at Dartmouth Provincial Court yesterday and charged with driving while impaired by a drug, dangerous driving, fleeing police, resisting arrest, possession of a weapon (pepper spray) and four breaches of probation.

Myles Crowell, 20, is charged with possession of a weapon (pepper spray) and failure to comply with conditions.

Both have been released on conditions and will return to court June 2.

## Man injured in apartment fire

One man was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries after Halifax Regional Fire Services responded to a report of smoke on the first floor of a 21-unit building on Rocky Lake Drive in Bedford yesterday morning.

When fire officials responded to the call at 1:50 a.m., a fire was located in-

side a garbage bin in the underground garage. It was later determined not to be suspicious and there were no other injuries.

About 50 residents were displaced, with Metro Transit providing temporary shelter on scene. The tenants were eventually allowed to return to their residences. **METRO HALIFAX**

## News in brief

**ROBBERY** Tantallon RCMP are looking for a man who entered the Esso on 4 French Village Station Rd. armed with a knife and demanded cash from the cashier at about 8:40 p.m. Friday. The man fled the scene with an undisclosed amount of cash. No one was injured. The suspect is described as a youthful male, about five-foot-four with a slim build. He was wearing a black

hoodie, black gloves and large sunglasses. Anyone with information is asked to contact any RCMP office, Halifax Regional Police or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

**ARREST** Two male youths were arrested after a male reported being threatened with a metal pole and stick as a group of teenagers tried to steal his cell-

phone at Landrace Park on Portland Street in Dartmouth Sunday evening. The male reported five or six youths approached him just before 8 p.m. There were no injuries. Two youths matching descriptions were arrested nearby. Police are continuing to investigate.

**ASSAULT** A man was "roughed up" by three men as he walked

Sunday night in the area of Albro Lake and Wyse Road in Dartmouth. Just after 10 p.m., the victim said three men approached him and demanded money, which they took after assaulting the victim. The suspects are described as tall with slim builds and each was wearing a hoodie. They took off on foot after the incident.

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The 2009 Atlantic Book Awards are taking place Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Alderney Landing Theatre in Dartmouth. Admission is free with donations of new or gently used children's books accepted on behalf of the charitable group Feed the Mind. **METRO HALIFAX**

# Council gets its priorities straight

PAUL MCLEOD  
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A downtown shuttle, replacing the Cogswell Interchange, and a fast-ferry to Bedford are all among the top new projects Halifax Regional Municipality staff want to see get funding from the federal government.

Council asked HRM staff to come up with a list of "shovel-ready" projects once it became clear the federal government was putting hundreds of millions of stimulus dollars up for grabs.

The problem is that many details of how the funds will work, and their criteria, are so far unknown.

So city staff put together a list of 20 new projects most likely to receive fund-

ing based on what they know so far.

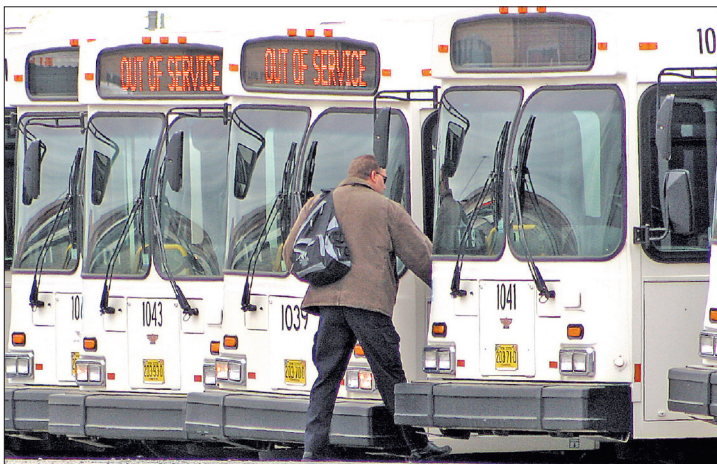
The project that ended up with the highest ranking was the demolition of the Bisset Road Rehab Centre.

The shuttle, interchange and ferry came next.

Most of the top 20 involved transportation. A new garage facility, peninsula transit corridor, MetroLink and Access-A-Bus expansion, and more transit stations were all listed.

Other priorities include funding for Halifax Common concert venue infrastructure, 2011 Canada Games venue upgrades, and a four-pad arena.

Projects were ranked on a variety of factors, from financial and customer service impact to how well the projects linked into existing plans.



A Metro Transit driver heads out to a bus at the Burnside garage yesterday. HRM staff has compiled a priority list for when the HRM receives federal stimulus money and expanded transit service is one of the projects on the list.

Council will vote today on whether or not it will approve the city's priority list and send it off to the province and Ottawa for lobbying.

## Shortage of anesthesia specialists in region eased

JON TATTRIE  
for Metro Halifax

The Department of Anesthesia at Dalhousie University and Capital Health is doing a better job attracting and maintaining qualified anesthesiologists, according to a report it released yesterday.

The department recruited 29 anesthesiologists in HRM over the last three years, easing what had been a difficult shortage.

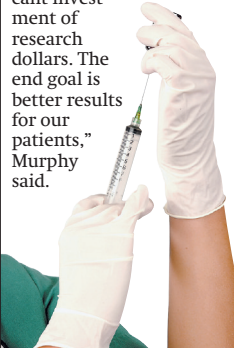
"The department has come a long way in the past several years and there is still work to be done," department chair Michael Murphy said.

"We've become more efficient, been able to increase recruitment and have improved the quality of patient care."

In 2005, a shortage of anesthesiologists sparked a reduction in cases being done in Halifax operating rooms.

Various initiatives since then have seen surgical procedures increase by 1,000 and operating hours grow by 2,200 hours.

"Today, we are pleased to report that the department is keeping and recruiting qualified physicians, doing more surgeries and attracting a significant investment of research dollars. The end goal is better results for our patients," Murphy said.



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## Want to keep the taxman at bay? Experts offer tips to help

JON TATTRIE  
for Metro Halifax

It's tax time, and if you play your credits right, you could save yourself big money.

Cleo Hamel, senior tax professional with H&R Block, was in Halifax recently and talked to Metro Halifax about tax tips for families, seniors and the self-employed.

For example, she said the Transit Pass Credit allows people to save money by taking the bus.

"Some people might find they don't pay enough, but even if it's \$20 or \$30 in tax savings, we think it's still important," Hamel says. If the pass is subsidized, you can claim what you did pay.

The Child Tax Credit is a big boost for families with

**"We've seen a number of couples who have been able to save lots of money. I'm not talking hundreds, I'm talking \$1,000, \$2,000."**

Cleo Hamel, tax professional

kids under 18. You can get \$300 in tax savings per child in the household.

"It could make for a nice surprise at the end of tax season," Hamel says, adding parents can also claim \$500 for kids' sports.

Seniors will want to take advantage of pension-income splitting. "We've seen a number of couples who have been able to save lots of money. I'm not talking just hundreds, I'm talking \$1,000, \$2,000," she says. "It really bodes well for couples where one stayed home over the time of employment while the other worked."

If you owe money on

April 30 and you haven't filed, you're hit with a five per cent late filing fee, and you'll be charged one per cent interest each month the balance is outstanding.

"If you don't have the money to pay your bill, at least file the tax return on time so you don't incur a late-filing penalty," Hamel advises.

If you were self-employed at the end of the year, you don't have to file until June 15. You do still have to pay what you owe by April 30, so see a tax professional to get an estimate and avoid late-payment fines.

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**Initiative targets sexual predators**

Alberta's Children and Youth Services is asking hotel staff to watch for signs that guests are sexually exploiting children, in a new campaign launched yesterday. After four years of focusing on Internet luring and safety, the provincial department is turning its efforts to "underground" child sexual exploitation. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

# Canada



## Williams blasts health authority

Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams, left, lashed out yesterday at the province's largest health authority, accusing Eastern Health of downplaying revelations it had missed dozens of breast cancer patients in a massive retesting exercise. Eastern Health, meanwhile, yesterday disclosed it had somehow missed 43 patients, up from the 38 patients the authority had revealed late Friday afternoon in a news release. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

## Docs give their pay for African aid, relief

**CHARITY** About 160 doctors from across Canada are digging deep into their pockets today as part of World Health Day to donate a day's pay to Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief.

The Toronto-based relief agency hopes to raise close to \$100,000 in its 4th annual Donate a Day for Africa program, says spokesperson Roxane Tracey.

The money will be used to help support health and development projects in rural Africa, including a clean water and sanitation project for elementary school pupils in Karatu, Tanzania. In its first try the event raised \$30,000 with about 60 doctors participating. Last year it topped \$70,000 with just over 100 participants.

For University Health Network cardiologist Dr. Paula Harvey, the World Health Day fundraising effort is a good fit — a way to give back in a global context.

"As a physician I feel I should be thinking about the health of people and the planet," she said.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

### Legacy

- The World Health Day initiative is a legacy inspired by the efforts of Vancouver ophthalmologist Kevin Wade, who in 2002 donated an entire day of his medical service payment plan.

## Tories searching for soul

Recent Mulroney tiff leaves conservatives asking about direction

**Canadian Conservatives may not be in the throes of the kind of public identity crisis facing angst-ridden Republicans in the United States.**

Being in power imposes a certain discipline.

But there's a whole lot of soul-searching going on here about where the Canadian conservative movement, particularly under Stephen Harper, is headed.

Complaints about past policy reversals (Senate, Afghanistan, foreign investment, income trusts),

### Reading

- A new book, *Blue Thunder*, by Ottawa author Bob Plamondon lays out the history of the Conservative movement through the successes and failures of its 19 leaders, and presents Harper's brand of leadership in a critical light.

and Harper's big-spending, big-bailout, big-government budget form the backdrop.

Along with that, private grumbling in the Conser-

vative caucus about disdainful treatment by Harper's office of former prime minister Brian Mulroney surfaced publicly this weekend.

A tiff erupted after party officials told media outlets Mulroney was no longer a member of the Conservative party, an assertion Mulroney — under fire at a public inquiry called by Harper — denied.

Indeed, private misgivings over Harper's leadership style are echoed in a very public discussion now occurring among the

broader base of conservatives.

A new website called Homeless Cons has cropped up. The op-ed pages openly debate whether the Canadian conservative movement.

Preston Manning's think-tank, the Manning Centre for Building Democracy, just held a conference where the doubts of fiscal conservatives, prairie populists, Red Tories, social conservatives, and libertarians were literally centre stage.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## GTAA admits problems: Baird

**AIRPORTS** Transport Minister John Baird says the Greater Toronto Airports Authority has owned up to "serious" security shortcomings he discovered at Pearson International Airport.

Baird met yesterday in Ottawa with GTAA president and CEO Lloyd McCoomb and other executives to discuss security concerns he raised after he walked unchallenged onto the airport tarmac during a visit to test security.

"The GTAA has accepted full responsibility and informed me that immediate action is being taken," he said.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## Calgary Iggy on tour



Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff answers students' questions at a town hall meeting at Western Canada High School in Calgary yesterday. The Liberals have been gaining in popularity according to a recent Leger poll, due to increasing unhappiness over how the Conservatives have been handling the economy.

## Winnipeg gears up for rising Red River

**FLOODS** Manitoba's biggest city of Winnipeg will defend itself against the Red River's highest crest without its prized floodway, an \$858-million ditch designed to channel floodwater around the provincial capital.

Backhoes and specialized ice-breaking machines have instead assembled along the river as the first of two crests, caused by ice jams on the north-flowing river, hits Winnipeg as early as today.

Freezing temperatures in the western province have been a mixed blessing: Preventing flash floods from a sudden melting, but creating potential ice-jam flooding that the floodway wasn't designed to handle.

The provincial government is counting on backhoes perched on the river bank and two ice-cutting barges trolling the Red River to break up ice enough to keep the river flowing.

"We're using every tactical resource we can," said Steve Ashton, Manitoba's minister responsible for emergency management.

The floodway's gates will remain closed until either the ice has passed by or if the crest is forecast to exceed 20 feet, said Steve Topping, a spokesman for the Manitoba government's Water Stewardship Department.

This spring's flood scenario brings with it a triple threat, Ashton said. Culverts in fields are frozen shut.

**REUTERS**

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Up to 70 per cent of melanoma skin cancers may be triggered by a gene mutation that causes cells to become cancerous after excessive exposure to the sun, researchers said yesterday. The discovery could lead to better treatments for the most deadly form of skin cancer. **REUTERS**

**Experts find genetic trigger for deadly skin cancer**

# World



## Sowing seeds of support

Indonesia's political parties are using high-yielding rice seeds to woo an agriculture-based electorate in this year's elections. Megawati Sukarnoputri's PDI-P party has launched its own variety of "MSP" rice: That stands for "Mari Sejahterakan Petani" or "let's improve the welfare of farmers," but it's no coincidence those are the initials of the former president. **REUTERS**

## Quake levels Italian towns

Death toll rising in Rome area as thousands left homeless

**More than 150 people in central Italy were killed by the strongest earthquake to hit the country in decades early yesterday, which left up to 50,000 homeless and flattened entire medieval towns while residents slept.**

As rescue workers combed through the rubble for survivors and rushed to set up tents for the homeless, officials warned the death toll could rise further and declined to estimate the number of missing. Most of the dead were in L'Aquila, a 13th-century mountain city about 100 kilometres east of Rome, and villages and towns in the Abruzzo region. The quake struck around 3:30 a.m. local time, and aftershocks rattled the area through the day.

Abruzzo's regional government said more than 150 people were confirmed dead, some 20 hours after the quake struck with a magnitude of

### Disaster predicted

Officials silenced scientist

• An Italian scientist predicted a major earthquake around L'Aquila weeks before disaster struck the city killing more than 150 people, but was reported to authorities for spreading panic by broadcasting his prediction via loudspeakers mounted on vans. The government insisted yesterday the warning, by seismologist Giacchino Giuliani, had no scientific foundation.

between 5.8 and 6.3.

Emergency services said 100 people had been rescued from the wreckage, while 250 more are believed missing. The Civil Protection department said up to 50,000 people may have been made homeless. More than 1,500 people were injured and thousands of houses, ancient churches and buildings collapsed or were damaged. **REUTERS**



A couple embrace near the ruins of their house after an earthquake in the Italian village of Onna yesterday. The quake struck a huge swath of central Italy as residents slept early yesterday morning, causing widespread destruction.

## Media covers U.S. war dead after 18-year ban

**MILITARY** The media was permitted Sunday to cover the arrival of a U.S. armed service member's coffin at the Pentagon's mortuary in Delaware for the first time in 18 years.

A flag-draped coffin bearing the remains of Air Force Staff Sgt. Phillip Myers arrived at Dover Air Force Base. Myers, 30, of Hopewell, Va., was killed in Afghanistan Saturday by an explosive device, the Pentagon said.

The administration of President Barack Obama relaxed a Pentagon ban on media coverage of returning U.S. war dead in February, allowing grieving families to choose.

### U.S. death toll

• The Pentagon says at least 4,262 U.S. service members have died in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003, while another 673 have been killed in Afghanistan.

The ban was imposed in 1991 during the first Gulf War with some exceptions. Former President George W. Bush imposed a stricter ban during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, sparking criticism the government was hiding the human cost of its military operations. **REUTERS**

## Doctors perform facial transplant, hand graft

**PARIS** French surgeons have replaced parts of a burn victim's face and hands using donor tissue, in what their hospital said was the world's first combined operation of that kind.

The surgeons began with the hand transplant and then replaced the 30-year-old man's face from the lips up, giving him a new scalp, nose, ears, forehead and eyelids and reconnecting the nerves, tendons, arteries and veins.

An accident in 2004 had left the man with burns that "prevented him from any social life," the Henri

### Sixth in history

• The face transplant was the sixth in the world. French surgeons previously performed face transplants on a man disfigured by a rifle shot and a woman mauled by her dog.

Mondor hospital in Paris, where the operation was performed, said in a statement.

The operation took 30 hours and involved more than 40 people, the hospital said. **REUTERS**

## China makes Costa Rica human trafficking bust

**BEIJING** Chinese police have detained two people suspected of trying to traffic about 300 mainly young people into Costa Rica, state media said yesterday.

The Costa Rican embassy in Beijing became suspicious after receiving visa applications all from

southern Guangdong who said they wished to be reunited with their parents who had moved to the Central American country, the official Xinhua news agency said. The identity cards and birth certificates were forged, the report said, prompting an investi-

gation.

"During the investigation, police officers found the parents of the applicants were all living in China and their application documents were all fabricated. Police concluded that it was an organized human smuggling case,"

Xinhua added.

Police tracked down suspected ringleaders in Guangdong, and found "a number of forged visa application documents and an account book recording the fees they had asked from the applicants," it said. **REUTERS**

## Obama backs Palestinian state in Turkey visit

**JAKARTA** U.S. President Barack Obama told Turkey's largely Muslim but secular democracy yesterday the U.S. was not at war with Islam and that it wanted to reinvigorate efforts towards creating a Palestinian state.

Obama reiterated the U.S. position after the new Israeli foreign minister

said last week Israel was not bound by a U.S.-backed deal to start talks on establishing a Palestinian state.

"Let me be clear: The United States strongly supports the goal of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by



Obama

side in peace and security," he said in a speech to Turkey's parliament.

Chief Palestinian peace negotiator Saeb Erekat welcomed Obama's words, saying he had made a major commitment to the two-state solution. **REUTERS**



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### News in brief

**JAKARTA** Twenty-four people are feared dead after an Indonesian military plane on a training exercise crashed in wet conditions at a base in West Java yesterday, an air force spokesman said.

The Fokker 27 aircraft had 17 advanced parachute trainees, one instructor and six crew on board.

**SOUTH AFRICA** Prosecutors dropped corruption charges

yesterday against ruling ANC party leader Jacob Zuma, who is expected to become president, ending a long legal battle that had raised doubts over his ability to govern. **REUTERS**



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# Comment & Views

## Comment

### Don't mess with Mulroney

#### NationalReport

Lawrence  
Martin

metronews.ca/nationalreport

Crossing paths with a close associate of Brian Mulroney the other day, something quickly became clear. Prime Minister Stephen Harper had better be careful. The confidant said Mulroney was seething, close to the breaking point over the treatment of him by Harper's office. He just might unload, he said, on Harper in a way that would be devastating. "You know how Brian gets."

Brian Mulroney may not be popular among average Canadians, but among the Tory faithful he has a lot of admirers. Among historians he is becoming increasingly appreciated with time.

He won two majority governments, something Stephen Harper will probably never do.

Because Mulroney is once again tangled up in the controversy over his taking money from arms dealer Karlheinz Schreiber, Harper has sought to distance the party from him. Worried as usual about nothing else except the political effect of things, Harper's office leaked out word to the media Mulroney was no



longer even a card-carrying Conservative.

Even if that were true — and Mulroney denies he threw out his membership card — it's not something the Prime Minister's Office should be doing.

The Mulroney associate said he could understand the Harper team wanting to keep some distance in the formal sense. But even privately they were being "sons of ... (rhymes with riches)." This is the well-known modus operandi of this government. If you're of no use politically, you're sent off to Alcatraz.

What's unusual this time is that the row has spilled over, with Conservatives on each side of the Mulroney question going after one another in a caucus meeting and going to the media to air their discontent.

This is a party which, thanks largely to Stephen Harper, has been remarkably unified and disci-

plined over the last three years. Now there are cracks — and for no good reason. The Mulroney controversy was aired out last year before a parliamentary committee. Canadians did not appear to let the matter affect their judgment of the Harper government.

But by overreacting, the prime minister's men have brought it into the spotlight. They have awoken long-simmering divisions between those on the old Reform side of the party who never liked Mulroney and those on the old Progressive Conservative side who remain his allies.

Brian Mulroney remains an influential man. That's why Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff telephoned him (how quaint) recently to wish him happy birthday on his 70th. Had Prime Minister Harper done a little schmoozing like that, there would be none of these problems.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



## Worth mentioning

### That's the spot: Study shows how itching brings relief

Scratching an itchy spot turns off an itch "switch" in the spinal cord, U.S. researchers said yesterday in a finding they think could lead to better treatments for itching disorders.

Tests on monkeys showed scratching short-circuits itch signals to the brain.

Understanding how this works may lead to new treatments for people with diseases such as AIDS or Hodgkin's disease that cause itching not easily relieved by antihistamines or steroid creams.

"There are more than 50 diseases that produce itch that can't be easily treated," Glenn Giesler Jr. of the University of Minnesota, whose study appears in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*, said in a telephone interview.

In earlier studies, he and colleagues showed neurons in

a special part of the spinal cord known as the spinothalamic tract become very active when itchy substances are put on the skin.

Giesler said itch sensations — which are a form of pain signal — are sent to a region of the brain known as the thalamus.

But it has not been clear how scratching interferes with the itch signal. "We wanted to know how scratch works. How does it relieve itch?" Giesler said.

His team studied monkeys to find out what happens to these nerves when an itch is scratched. They painstakingly attached tiny electrodes to individual nerve fibres responsible for transmitting the itch signal to the brain.

Then they injected a substance under the skin to make the monkeys itchy. When they scratched the itch, Giesler said the itch signal "magically" disappeared.

Giesler said the next step is to figure out how that circuit works, and what are the chemical messengers or neurotransmitters that are involved in this process.

REUTERS

## Views

### Gun control victim in Harper legislation



Wendy  
Cukier

After a high-profile shooting, politicians flock to cameras to express outrage and sympathy for the victims. But as elections loom they focus on the complex calculus around votes. Many Canadians are aware of the influence of the powerful National Rifle Association in the U.S., but are astonished to learn how the gun lobby drives the agenda in Canada. Speaking recently to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Prime Minister Stephen Harper advocated dismantling essential parts of gun control in Canada and then introduced legislation to the Sen-

ate. The proposed law will eliminate the registration of rifles and shotguns, including the powerful semi-automatic rifle like the one used by Marc Lépine at L'Ecole Polytechnique in 1989.

The gun lobby cries, "Punish criminals, not law-abiding gun owners." But where do criminals get their guns? While smuggled handguns fuel crime, so do Canadian guns diverted through theft and illegal sales. And legal gun owners sometimes go off the rails. The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police say any gun in the wrong hands is dangerous. All firearm owners need to be licensed and

all firearms need to be registered.

How exactly does filling in forms constitute "punishment." We need licences to drive. In most cities we need permits to own dogs and even cats.

It's not called "punishment." It's called being responsible and accountable.

Certainly, too much money was spent licensing two million gun owners and registering seven million firearms — \$100 million per year over 10 years according to the auditor general. But the money is gone. It can't be reinvested. The RCMP says ending the registration of long guns will save about \$3 mil-

lion per year.

Controlling firearms is not a panacea, but it does reduce the risk of gun violence. What sense does it make to dismantle a system that is working? Suicides, particularly among youth and murders of women with guns, have plummeted. Homicides with rifles and shotguns have declined precipitously — 32 people were murdered with long guns in 2007 compared to 107 in 1991.

Priscilla deVilliers, whose daughter Nina was abducted and murdered, reminds us: "Six separate inquests recommended licensing and registration of guns, including the inquest into my daughter's death."

Wendy Cukier is president of the Coalition for Gun Control.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: [halifaxletters@metronews.ca](mailto:halifaxletters@metronews.ca)

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.



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## SmartCookies



metronews.ca/smartcookies

If you open your wallet, peek in your bedside table or rummage through your dresser drawer, we bet you'll likely find a gift card or two lying around.

The business of gift cards

is a multi-billion dollar a year industry; with retailers making millions in revenue from unredeemed cards.

If you need to buy someone a present, and you're debating a gift card, we'll

settle that debate right now: Don't.

While the gesture is nice and it might say that perhaps you've put a little more thought into your gift, it can actually end up being more costly in the

end.

Unless you are certain that the gift card recipient will be making a big purchase and could use that money to put towards the item, or you know for sure that the card will go to great use, cash is always better. It's just

as thoughtful (and easier for everyone) to put some money in a nice card and add a note mentioning that this is to put towards whatever they happen to love or are saving for. Let's be honest, who wouldn't much rather have cash?

Here's the main problem with a gift card. If you can't find anything you want in that particular store, the card goes to waste. Or often you end up with \$4 remaining on your card and then have to spend even more cash just to use up that remaining money.

If you are going to go the gift card route, to avoid giving someone a card for a store they may not shop at, buy one from a mall. That way they will have more selection and more opportunity to use every last cent on the card.

If you are on the receiving end of a card for a store you would never dream of

**"Unless you are certain that the gift card recipient will be making a big purchase and could use that money to put towards the item, or you know for sure that the card will go to great use, cash is always better."**

stepping foot into, you can always try to sell it online. There are sites, such as plasticjungle.com where you can sell or trade your gift cards.

A few more things to keep in mind: Make sure the gift card you pur-

chase does not have an expiry date. If your card expires before you've had a chance to use it or exhaust its value, contact the issuer. They may extend the date, although they may charge a fee to do it.

If you do end up with some cards with just a few dollars on them, check with a friend who may also have a small balance and pool your resources. Or, as a last resort, if you receive a card for a store you don't shop at and don't plan to sell or trade, re-gift it to someone you know shops there.

Have a comment or tip for the Smart Cookies? Email us at [smartcookies@metronews.ca](mailto:smartcookies@metronews.ca).

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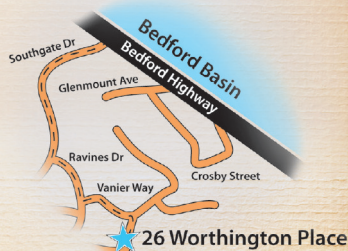
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## Your Money

EDITOR: NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

### Deduct tuition for private school?

#### MoneyMatters

**Henry Choo Chong**



**Q** My wife and I chose to send my son (who is seven years old) to private school. This year, we were told by the school that our child does not qualify to deduct the full tuition. We have always done so in the past. Is this correct? How much can we deduct?

— Frank and Maria

**A** Childcare expenses can be deducted for children up to 16 years of age. Generally, the parent with the lesser income must claim the deduction (there are other circumstances when the higher income may claim).

A Parent may deduct as follows — the lesser of:

- The actual amount paid
- Two-thirds of the parent income
- \$7,000 for children under seven years old/\$4,000 for children between seven and 16 years old.

Generally, private school tuition is not considered childcare, however an amount maybe apportioned to childcare. Your educational institution



Your private school will determine what portion of tuition is considered childcare for deduction purposes.

will determine what portion is childcare.

Parents of children in religious or affiliated institutions may qualify to deduct the non-childcare portion as charitable donations.

Check with your tax adviser.

**Q** Last year was my first year as a real estate agent. Can I deduct home cost from my commissions?

— Ali

**A** Yes! Provided it is your principal place of business or used exclusively to earn income and to meet customers on a regular and continuous basis.

Your claim is limited to

the income earned in the year as an agent. Real estate agents and commissioned individuals should see their accountant for other claims allowed.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA, offers professional tax solutions for individuals and businesses. chchoonghcgca@yahoo.ca.

#### Investing

**Allan Small**



Allan Small discusses strategies on how to profit on the current market. Visit [metronews.ca/investing](http://metronews.ca/investing)

### Don't let your mortgage automatically renew

**When's the last time you thought about your mortgage? Do you know your rate? Do you know when your term is up for renewal?**

Many Canadians don't. It's no wonder when it comes time to renew a mortgage, many people fall into the auto renewal trap.

An Angus Reid survey, commissioned by ING Direct found that more than a quarter (27 per cent) of Canadians with mortgages that have come up for renewal allowed their mortgages to automatically renew — meaning they didn't perform the same due diligence upon renewal as they did when they first got their mortgage. Letting your mortgage automatically renew often means you missed an opportunity to save money.

Most big banks send out mortgage renewal letters around 30 days before you need to make a decision, which doesn't leave much time to negotiate or shop around for a better rate.

Canada's big banks also

typically offer their posted rates to clients upon renewal. Their posted rates are about one per cent higher than what the average Canadian normally gets. On an average \$200,000 mortgage with a five year fixed term, amortized over 25 years, a one per cent difference could save you roughly \$10,000 in interest over that period (calculated using average current five year fixed rates of 4.24 per cent versus 5.24 per cent).

#### How to avoid the traps

- Know your options and exercise them. Remember

that you are in control of your mortgage at renewal time, not your lender.

- Don't wait until the mortgage renewal letter arrives in your mailbox. Pay attention to your mortgage term and when it's coming up for renewal. You can usually check your renewal date online.

- Start shopping around for rates at least 120 days before your mortgage comes up for renewal. Rate guarantees mean you will get the bank's lowest rate for a set period of time, usually 90 to 120 days.

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Iran.....3.9 ¢	Saudi Arabia.....3.9 ¢
Iraq.....4.9 ¢	Syria.....18.9 ¢
Israel.....2.9 ¢	U.A.E.....19.9 ¢

### Latin America

**CUBA 85** c/min

Haiti.....16.9 ¢	Bolivia.....6.9 ¢
Honduras.....15.9 ¢	Chile.....2.9 ¢
Panama.....3.9 ¢	Colombia.....3.9 ¢
Uruguay.....7.9 ¢	Dominican Rep.....6.9 ¢
Venezuela.....2.9 ¢	Mexico.....2.9 ¢

### South Asia

**PAKISTAN 5.9** c/min

Bangladesh from.....3.9¢
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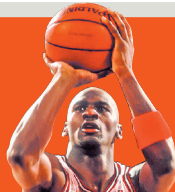
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**Raiders sign Garcia: Report**  
Veteran quarterback Jeff Garcia will join the Oakland Raiders, who signed the 39-year-old signal-caller to a one-year deal, according to the Contra Costa Times. Garcia spent his first five years in San Francisco after leaving the CFL. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Sports



## Jordan headed to Hall of Fame

Former NBA superstars Michael Jordan, David Robinson and John Stockton headline the 2009 class for the Basketball Hall of Fame. Joining the three members of the NBA's 50th Anniversary Team in this year's class are coaches Jerry Sloan and C. Vivian Stringer. Enshrinement festivities in Springfield, Mass., are scheduled for Sept. 10 to 12. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

## NCAA Playing for the title



Michigan State Spartan Kalin Lucas goes up for a basket against University of North Carolina Tar Heel Deon Thompson during the NCAA men's championship basketball game last night. For game results, visit [metronews.ca/sports](http://metronews.ca/sports).

# Senators sink Habs

## NHL RESULT

Senators 3, Canadiens 2

Dany Heatley scored twice in a span of 38 seconds in the third period to help the Ottawa Senators edge the Montreal Canadiens, 3-2, at the Bell Centre yesterday.

Chris Campoli scored the other goal while Alex Auld made 20 saves for the Senators, who have won their last two games over playoff-hopeful teams.

"It was 2-1 going into the third, we were in the game and had a chance of winning and it proved true," said Heatley. "I missed a one-timer in the first, but the other two hit the mark. We took advantage of their defense tonight with a couple of quick goals and then hung on."

Alex Kovalev and Roman Hamrlik each had a goal for the



Ottawa Senators goalie Alex Auld makes a save as teammate Anton Volchenkov and Montreal Canadien Maxim Lapierre fight for the puck last night in Montreal. The Senators won 3-2.

Canadiens, who had won five of six coming into the game.

Jaroslav Halak made 20 saves in the loss.

Montreal sits in the seventh spot in the Eastern

Conference with 92 points, three ahead of the Rangers and Panthers. Montreal plays the Rangers today in New York.

"These are points you have to have," said Montreal right wing Tom Kostopoulos. "It's tough to come out on the losing end. We still have an opportunity to bounce back with three games to go."

Trailing by a goal, the Senators took the lead thanks to Heatley's heroics.

The first goal came at the 11:23 mark of the third. Jesse Winchester worked the puck in the Montreal end and

dished it to Mike Fisher, who skated to the right side of the net before sending it out front where Heatley redirected it in.

Moments later, Heatley gave the team a 3-2 lead as he rushed down the ice with the puck and from the left circle he snapped a wristshot past the glove of Halak.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Globetrotter legend still holding court for fans

**BASKETBALL** Curly Neal is a little cranky and quite tired as he gets ready to tuck into a plate of bacon, eggs and waffles in an Toronto restaurant late one recent morning. It's been, almost seven hours since he woke up in Montreal and about 11 hours before he'll call it a night in London.

Even for the irrepressible and iconic Harlem Globetrotter, that's a heavy day of travel, media obligations and being "on," but when you're Curly Neal discontent isn't put on public display, no matter the circumstances.



So when the four guys of a certain age at a table across the way recognize the bald head and the smile, it's time for the 67-year-old Neal to go to work.

"Saw you in Worcester when I was a kid," one of the gawkers says as he approaches the table. "Oh yeah," says Neal, rising to shake hands. "Worcester. Great city. Glad to see you. Come on out and see us when we're here."

The gentlemen move on, filled undoubtedly with memories of Neal, Mead-

owlark Lemon, buckets of confetti, Red Klotz and basketball as pure entertainment. "Guys like them recognize everywhere," says current Globetrotter Moo Moo Evans. "And the first thing they say is, 'When you guys playing, I've got to bring my son, I've got to bring my daughter.' Everyone remembers him."

And as if a switch has been turned on, Neal's off, telling stories and selling the current version of the legendary Globetrotters, as enduring a sports entity as exists in the world today.

"We need more laughs in this world," says Neal, whose Globetrotters make a swing through Oshawa, Mississauga and Kitchener this next week. "Everybody's all stressed out. Have some fun, have a sense of humour."

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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## Wilson picked to coach U.S. team

Toronto Maple Leafs head coach Ron Wilson has been selected to guide the United States men's hockey team at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. Wilson will also coach the United States' entry in the 2009 World Championship. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher Roy Halladay throws against the Detroit Tigers during the first inning of the Jays' home opener in Toronto yesterday. The Blue Jays won 12-5.

# Jays win opener

## MLB RESULT

Blue Jays 12, Tigers 5

**Adam Lind went 4-for-5 with a home run and finished with six RBI and two runs scored, as the Toronto Blue Jays routed the Detroit Tigers, 12-5, in the season-opener for both clubs last night in Toronto.**

Travis Snider had a solo homer while Lyle Overbay drove in a pair of runs for the Blue Jays, who finished the 2008 campaign with an 86-76 overall mark, which was good enough for fourth place in the powerful AL East. Aaron Hill, Vernon Wells and Scott Rolen each drove in a run in the win.

Roy Halladay (1-0) got the win, going seven innings and giving up five runs on six hits with two strikeouts and a walk. Halladay, who was making his seventh straight Opening Day start, was 20-11 with a 2.78 ERA

in an AL-high 246 innings pitched a year ago.

Curtis Granderson had a solo homer and Brandon Inge offered a two-run blast for the Tigers, who lost their first seven games last year and were out of the playoff race by August, as the club became the most expensive last-place team in baseball history. Gerald Laird and Carlos Guillen drove in a run each in the setback.

Justin Verlander (0-1) was addled with the loss after giving up eight runs on eight hits in 3½ innings of work. After posting 35 wins between 2006-07, Verlander had a miserable 2008 campaign, going 11-17 while pitching to a dreadful 4.84 earned run average.

Elsewhere in Major League Baseball action yesterday:

It was Baltimore Orioles 10, New York Yankees 5; Texas Rangers 9, Cleveland Indians 1; Arizona Diamondbacks 9, Colorado Rockies 8; Chicago Cubs 4, Houston Astros 2; Florida Marlins 12, Washington Nationals 6; Los Angeles Dodgers 4, San Diego Padres 1; New York Mets 2, Cincinnati Reds 1; and Pittsburgh Pirates 6, St. Louis Cardinals 4.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Weir eager to take on shortened Augusta

**GOLF** Former winner Mike Weir has relished playing at Augusta National since his very first U.S. Masters but he is especially looking forward to this week's edition on a layout shortened by 10 yards.

The left-hander from Sarnia, Ont., is no fan of some of the recent changes made at Augusta, which has controversially been stretched by almost 500 yards since Tiger Woods clinched his maiden victory there in 1997.

South African Trevor Immelman won last year's title with an eight-under total of 280, triumphing by three shots over Woods after shooting a final-round 75 in tricky, swirling winds.

Throughout that week, the birdie roars that have traditionally lit up Augusta National's back nine were strangely silent on a layout lengthened to 7,445 yards.

"The tournament had become a little bit like the U.S. Open, it had become such a grind," Weir told Reuters in an interview.

"All the majors should be different," Weir said.

**"All the majors should be difficult but I think quite a bit of the excitement was maybe taken away in the last few years. It has been quite quiet on the back nine."**

Mike Weir

cult but I think quite a bit of the excitement was maybe taken away in the last few years. It has been quite quiet on the back nine.

"Trevor shot two over par on the back nine last year and won the tournament. That never used to happen because someone would shoot 30 or 31 and make a big charge."

"I heard a stat that none of the leaders has shot better than two under in the last 10 years on the back nine," said Weir, who became the first Canadian to win a major with his playoff victory over American Len Mattiace at the 2003 Masters.

"So something special was taken away from the Masters. If you take a lead into the back nine and shoot even par or one under, you're probably going to win the tournament because it's so hard to make birdies out there now."

Organizers will also have the flexibility to shorten the course further in the event of poor weather this week, a move applauded by Weir.

"To try to bring back the roar of excitement on the back nine is the right thing to do," he said. "It's tough enough for the players and it brings a lot more excitement for the fans as well."

Weir's maiden major title at Augusta National six years ago was largely set up by the quality of his wedge play and putting.

At a venue renowned for its heavily contoured and slick greens, this is the one department of his game that he prays will be in top form for this year's tournament.

"If one particular part of your game is off, you don't want it to be your wedge game and your putting," the 38-year-old said. "You want that to be your strength."

REUTERS

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**Surging syrup prices a boon to producers**  
This season's \$60 US a gallon price tag on maple syrup makes for one expensive pancake breakfast, but it's a windfall for thousands of small, mostly family-run businesses in the United States and Canada that produce the sweet, aromatic treat. **REUTERS**

# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

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## Canada building permits, purchasers index fall

**FIGURES** The value of Canadian building permits issued in February fell by a greater-than-expected 15.9 per cent, while purchasing activity in the economy resumed contraction in March, statistics released yesterday showed.

The fall in building permits, reported by Statistics Canada, was caused mainly by a large drop in commercial and institutional building projects, while residential permits stabilized with a 0.3 per cent drop. The overall number was

the worst fall since the 16 per cent registered in October. In a separate release by the Purchasing Management Association of Canada and the Richard Ivey School of Business, the Ivey Purchasing Managers

Index fell to 43.2 in March from 45.2 in February. A reading of 50.0 indicates that economic activity remained flat from the preceding month, while a lower reading reflects a slowing.

**REUTERS**

## Yahoo's new music venture

Net giant partners with other providers, collects referral fees

**Yahoo Inc. is partnering with other online music providers as the Internet giant tries a fresh approach to getting an edge in the evolving digital music business.**

The new version of Yahoo Music, unveiled yesterday, aggregates paid and free music services available on the Internet, allowing Yahoo users to access and interact with the services directly from the Yahoo site.

Yahoo has struck commercial relationships with digital music retailers like Apple Inc.'s AAPL.O iTunes and Amazon.com Inc., collecting a fee for every referral, the company said.

The move comes a little over a year after Yahoo announced it was shuttering its own paid-music service, and is in keeping with the

### Visitors

• Yahoo Music was the No. 2 online music site in December with 19.6 million unique visitors, according to ComScore.

company's latest efforts to make Yahoo a more open service by integrating products and services developed by other companies.

Visitors to the Yahoo Music site will be able to select from a variety of modules representing the web's disparate music sites, including free, radio-like streaming audio services such as Pandora and last.fm, music videos from Google Inc.'s YouTube, and paid music downloads from iTunes and Amazon.com.

**REUTERS**

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## Carbon-cap deal won't come easily

**ENVIRONMENT** It will be hard work getting rich nations to agree to cuts in greenhouse gases that are deep enough to satisfy the demands of developing countries at climate talks, UN's climate chief told Reuters yesterday.

Some 175 nations are meeting this week in Germany in one of a series of UN-led meetings meant to forge a deal in Denmark, in December to replace or extend the Kyoto Protocol.

The talks are split on the level of action that industrialized countries should take to curb their greenhouse-gas emissions by 2020. More ambitious goals would unlock action from developing nations.

**REUTERS**

## The DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

### Share-offering results:

Chebucto Wind Field Inc. has announced the successful initial close of its recent share offering, having raised \$105,244 to date with 42 shareholders. The offering availability has been extended until June 2.

### New business directory:

Natural Resources Minister Carolyn Bolivar-Getson says a new publication called From Our Atlantic Woods, which lists more than 260 businesses, will help woodland owners develop a diverse and sustainable non-timber forest-products industry.

### Amherst still on budget:

A snowy winter has resulted in higher snow-removal costs for Amherst, but the transportation and public works department should still be on budget for the year.

### In brief

**FRAUD U.S.** securities regulators charged a Toronto-based fund manager, who describes himself as the "Chinese Warren Buffett," and his hedge fund with operating a multimillion-dollar investment fraud, the Securities and Exchange Commission said yesterday.

**REUTERS**

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# Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

## Less food for thought?

Calorie restriction improved memory performance: Study

CELIA MILNE  
for Metro Canada



### A German study has found that eating less may help improve memory in older people.

The findings suggest that simply eating fewer calories could help fend off dementia, a benefit that has been shown in animal studies in the past.

Researchers divided 50 healthy elderly people into three groups. They ranged in weight from normal to slightly overweight.

The study took place over three months. The first group received 30 per cent calorie restriction; the second group received a higher amount of "good fats" found in olive oil and fish (but the same total fat intake); and the third group proceeded with a regular diet.

Memory performance was measured before and after the three-month period, using standardized tests.

The people who were on calorie restriction had a boost in memory of about 20 per cent, while those in the other two groups had no change.

"They remembered more words on average from a word list, with an average of about a fifth more," Dr. Agnes Flöel, a



Eating fewer calories may help fend off dementia, reported a recent German study.

neurologist at the University of Münster in Germany, told Metro in an email.

"Our study provides some first evidence on the impact of calorie restriction on memory in the elderly, but this study has to be followed up now by us and hopefully others," added Flöel, who led the study.

The next step is to try to repeat the findings in a larger group of healthy elderly people and to try to figure out why calorie restriction can aid memory. Then, the group plans to study the use of calorie restriction in those with

mild cognitive decline.

Memory loss is quite common. A recent survey found that 58 per cent of Canadian baby boomers (ages 40 to 60) have had short-term memory loss over the past year.

Much more serious is Alzheimer disease, which affects a small number of young people, and one in 20 Canadians over age 65 (one in four over age 85). The Alzheimer Society of Canada predicts that in the next 25 years, Alzheimer disease will more than double in the Canadian population.

Flöel warned that people who already suffer

### "Our study provides some first evidence on the impact of calorie restriction on memory in the elderly, but this study has to be followed up now by us and hopefully others."

Dr. Agnes Flöel, a neurologist at the University of Münster in Germany

from Alzheimer disease might not be good candidates for calorie restriction, since they tend to lose weight anyway, and become emaciated. "To implement calorie restriction at this stage might actually be too late for any brain-beneficial effects, and might be detrimental to them as their general health status is concerned," she reported.

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## No licorice after transplant

CELIA MILNE  
for Metro Canada

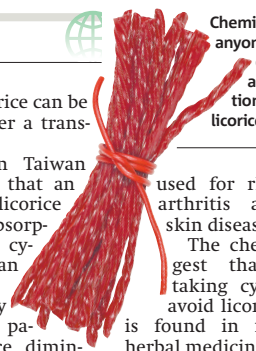


**NUTRITION** Licorice can be dangerous after a transplant.

Chemists in Taiwan are reporting that an ingredient in licorice blocks the absorption of cyclosporine, an anti-rejection drug used by transplant patients. Licorice diminishes the effect of cyclosporine and could cause patients' bodies to reject the transplanted organ, warned the researchers.

Cyclosporine is also

Chemists suggest anyone taking cyclosporine, an anti-rejection drug, avoid licorice.



used for rheumatoid arthritis and some skin diseases.

The chemists suggest that anyone taking cyclosporine avoid licorice, which is found in foods and herbal medicines.

The active ingredient in licorice that has the negative effect is glycyrrhizin.

Findings were to be reported at the American Chemical Society's national meeting.

## Health in brief

**DRINKS** Want to help your kids keep the weight off? Just give them water instead of soda and other sugar-sweetened drinks, researchers advised Monday. One analysis of the diets of children and teens in the United States showed they

drink, on average, 235 "empty" calories in sugar-sweetened beverages each day. When these drinks are cut out, the average child does not make up for them by eating or drinking more calories elsewhere, the researchers said. **REUTERS**

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## Soaps push the envelope

### The J Spot

Josey Vogels

metronews.ca/thejspot

**G**uiding Light, not just the longest running soap opera, but the longest running scripted broadcast series ever (it started on radio in 1930 and moved to television in 1952 where it has broadcast five days a week ever since) will no longer shine as of September.

Mine was a General Hospital household. I was 17 when Luke and Laura wed, apparently one of 30 million people who tuned into the highest rated hour in American soap opera history. Okay, given Laura fell in love with Luke after he drunkenly raped her made for a less-than-conventional romantic love story, but that's what soap operas have always done best — taken reality, and given it a hyper unrealistic spin.

That's why they were such a hit with clothes iron-wielding housewives, whose greatest daily drama was whether to serve meatloaf or tuna casserole for dinner.

But while soap operas have long been stereotypically dismissed as a frivolous indulgence that housebound women waste their time watching while ignoring their domestic duties,



A scene from the longest running soap opera Guiding Light. Soaps are progressive in terms of sexuality, says our columnists.

one could argue that soap operas have often been on the cutting edge of mainstream TV, at least when it comes to sexuality.

**"Soap operas have often been on the cutting edge of mainstream TV, at least when it comes to sexuality."**

Soap operas were dealing with storylines that involved abortion, unwanted pregnancy, domestic violence and infidelity back in the late '60s and early '70s, long before primetime TV touched the stuff. As the World Turns introduced a gay character in 1989, All My Children introduced an AIDS-related storyline in 1988 and One Life to Live included AIDS and homophobia in its storylines. All My Children created a media stir with its first on screen lesbian kiss back in 2003 and introduced a transgendered character shortly thereafter.

Sure, often the most con-

troversial plotlines are brief and usually done to temporarily boost lagging ratings but, given the popularity of soap operas (at their height in the 1980s, two-thirds of all women living in homes with televisions "followed" one or more soap operas), there is no denying their influence.

Losing such a mainstream outlet for these issues is a bit tragic. I just hope we don't end up throwing the baby out with the soapy bathwater and that mainstream television continues to shine some light on sexuality issues that are important to all of us.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit [joseyvogels.com](http://joseyvogels.com).



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A fast food cheesesteak roast beef sandwich with veggies and cheese on a French-style bun contains a whopping 1,140 calories — half a day's worth!

## The facts about fast food nutrition

CELIA MILNE  
for Metro Canada



### How many calories are in that fast food you're about to eat?

Most people don't give it a second thought. Researchers from Yale University in New Haven, Conn., did some sleuthing at U.S. fast-food outlets and found out that only six out of 4,311 people stopped to look at nutrition information provided in-store. Outlets included McDonald's, Burger King,

Au Bon Pain and Starbucks.

That means only one-tenth of one per cent of people look at calorie counts provided on posters or pamphlets. Fast-food outlets do give nutritional information on their websites, but the authors of the study argue that it should also be more prominent in stores.

What would you find if you checked nutritional information of fast food?

Metro went to the Center for Science in the Public Interest website to find

out. The CSPI has several examples of what they call "food porn": A Boston Cheesesteak roast beef sandwich with veggies and cheese on a French-style bun contains a whopping 1,140 calories (half a day's worth), plus 19 grams of fat and 3,900 grams of sodium.

The McDonald's large triple thick milkshake contains 1,130 calories (again, half a day's worth) as well as 28 grams of fat, 17 grams of them saturated — as much as two quarter pounders.



USMAGAZINE.COM

## Nova Scotia artist sticks to regular guy vibe on 13th album



796 Main Street, Dartmouth



and his band on their 2008 Lost Highway world tour. The Phil Griffin-directed movie will screen as the festival's centerpiece presentation on April 29, with another pair of screenings scheduled over the following three days. **REUTERS**

**Mickey Rourke**  
GETTY IMAGE



It's time to start planning your outfit for the premiere — it's been confirmed that a Sex and the City sequel will debut May 28, 2010. Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Cynthia Nixon and Kristin Davis have signed up to star in the film. [INTOUCHWEEKLY.COM](http://INTOUCHWEEKLY.COM)

# Chris Brown pleads not guilty to assault

**R&B star Chris Brown pleaded not guilty in a Los Angeles court yesterday to charges stemming from an alleged attack on his girlfriend, singer Rihanna.**

Brown, 19, entered the pleas during his arraignment in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Rihanna's attorney, Donald Etra, told reporters after the hearing that Rihanna hoped a plea bargain could be struck, but that she would testify against Brown if required. Brown and his attorney Mark Geragos did not speak to reporters.

Judge Patricia Schnegg set an April 29 status hearing for Brown.

Los Angeles prosecutors have said Brown attacked Rihanna, 21, during a roadside dispute in his rented Lamborghini last February. A photo of Rihanna's bruised and battered face was leaked onto the Internet. Brown later issued a statement saying he was "sorry and saddened" about the incident, and was seeking



Chris Brown being arraigned in a Los Angeles court yesterday.

ing counselling.

The formal charges accuse Brown of assaulting Rihanna "by means of force likely to produce great bodily injury" and threatening to commit a crime "which would result in death and great bodily injury." He could face up to four years in prison if convicted.

A police affidavit said Brown shoved Rihanna's head against the passenger window, repeatedly punched her in the face, bit her ear and finger, and put her into a headlock.

At one stage, the affidavit said, Brown told Rihanna: "I'm going to kill you."

Brown broke onto the Billboard charts in 2005 at the age of 16 with his single Run It! and sold two million copies of his self-titled debut album.

Barbados-born Rihanna also released her debut album in 2005 and had a No. 1 hit single with S.O.S. less than a year later. She followed with three more No. 1's — Umbrella, Take a Bow and Disturbia.

REUTERS

## DVD picks

### Doubt

Director: **John Patrick Shanley**

**MAGNIFICENTLY ADAPTING** his award-winning stage play of Catholic school guilt to the screen, writer/director John Patrick Shanley has retained its most unsettling questions: Who can we trust? Is morality absolute?

He invites us to judge, but then lays out reasons why our verdict might be wrong, even tragically so. He wants us to think, something that runs counter to blind devotion.

One of the two antagonists in the film is committing evil in the guise of good, or attempting to.

Father Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman), the priest at St. Nicholas Church School in the Bronx, is a beloved cleric and mentor. He may be sexually molesting one of

his students, a troubled black child named Donald Miller (Joseph Foster).

Sister Aloysius (Meryl Streep), the school's officious principal, suspects Flynn is a pedophile, but she has no proof, only innuendo.

She may well be wrong, and she may also be motivated entirely by jealousy and spite.

Every element of Doubt is in perfect balance. Shanley's dialogue is economical but sharp, his direction completely assured, the production impeccably mounted.

Extras include an audio commentary by Shanley and several featurettes.

### Yes Man

Director: **Peyton Reed**

**A RECENT CAREER** slump prompts Jim Carrey to put the clown shoes back on, via a movie that will remind you of his Liar, Liar smash of a decade past, only with fewer laughs.

On the upside, Carrey is every bit as eager as Carl Allen, his convert to positive thinking in Yes Man. On the downside, he

strains at times for jokes that once came so effortlessly.

Carl is the loans officer for a small Los Angeles bank, who thinks his job is to say "no" to everybody who asks for money.

Then Carl meets a self-help guru, played well by Terence Stamp, who tells him that his life will change dramatically if he starts saying "yes" to everything.

Carl embarks on escapades that include learning Korean, taxing homeless people and giving out reckless loans.

Extras include several featurettes, a gag reel and music videos by gag band Munchausen by Proxy.

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## On the web

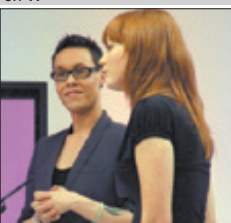
Read the following DVD review at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca):  
• The Day The Earth Stood Still

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
4/7/09	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wild News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	It's the Easter Beagle	Dancing With the Stars	Cupid (N)	
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Reaper: Underbelly (N)	Dancing With the Stars	Without Trace	
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	22 Minutes	Ron James-Road Between	CBC News: The National	The Hour	
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Patrie	Pyramid (SC)	Virginie (SC)	La Facture	Beautés désempêrées (SC)	René - Le Destin d'un chef (N)	Le Téléjournal	
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	NCIS "Toxic" (HDTV) (N)	The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)	Without Trace	
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Les Gags	Star Académie	La Fiebre de la danse (SC)	La Promesse (HDTV) (N) (SC)	TVA 22 heures	
	6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	Holmes in New Orleans	NCIS "Toxic" (HDTV) (N)	Project Runway Canada	News (N)		
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	Law & Order: SVU	American Idol	(10:01) Fringe (N)	Fringe (N)	News (N)	
	10	10	10	ELTV	QMJHL Hockey	Quarterfinal Game 3 -- Quebec Ramparts at Cape Breton Screaming Eagles.				EastLink Television		
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	American Idol	(10:01) Fringe (N)	Fox First	
news	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	The Biggest Loser (N)	Frontline (N) (DVS)	Law/Ord SVU	
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National	Saving Luna	
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Project Dropout (N)	Project Dropout (N)	Nova (N) (DVS)	Nova (N) (DVS)	Frontline (N) (DVS)	Frontline	
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Nova (N) (DVS)	Nova (N) (DVS)	Sphinx Competition Finals	Frontline (N)	
	68	68	68	TQS	Rire et délire	450 chemin	Loft Story	Pop Corn	Dirty Sexy Money (SC)	Men in Trees: leçons	110 pour cent	
	23	23	23	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Workopolis TV	Squeeze Play	Market Call	
	18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room- Wolf Blitzer	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias	Larry King Live (N)	Market Call	Cooper 360	
	54	54	54	GOLF	Live From the Masters (Live)			Inside PGA	The Approach	Live From the Masters		
	52	52	52	RSE	Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.	Overtime	NHL Hockey Boston Bruins at Ottawa Senators. (HDTV) (Live)			Sportsnet Con.	
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On	NBA Basketball Atlanta Hawks at Toronto Raptors. (Live)			WWE Monday Night Raw		
sports	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips		Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Low Life	Low Life	Super Bikes!	
	53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre	Curling 2009 Ford World Men's Championship -- Canada vs. Norway. (Live)					Super Bikes!	
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoe 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	
	44	44	44	TOON	Ben 10	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	
	26	26	26	TREE	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Big & Small	Backyardigans	Night Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Maggie-Beast	
	27	27	27	TVT	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Adrenaline Proj	Survive This	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Family Biz	
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami "Burned"	The First 48 (HDTV)	The First 48 (HDTV)	The First 48 (HDTV)	Manhunters	
	70	70	70	APTN	News (N)	Wings-Canada	Storytellers	Wapost Bay	Cashing In (N)	Fish Out	Mixed Blessing	
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Jadakiss album release.		House Party IV ★ (2000, Comedy)	Marques Houston.	Neil Young: Heart of Gold ★★ (2006)	College Hill	
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal "Film Noir"		Road to Baileya	Live at the Rehearsal Hall	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	
family	25	25	25	CMT	Cross Canada Countdown		Air Force	Just for Laughs	Cornier Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	World's Wildest Police Videos	Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Special Forces	Police Videos	
	153	153	153	COURT	Killer Next Door		Daily Planet (N)	How It's Made	How It's Made	Destroyed	Time Warp (N)	
	38	38	38	DISC	Destroyed	Destroyed	House Hunters	Property Virgin	HogTV's Top 10	SarahCottage	Design Inc.	
	34	34	34	HGTV	Holmes-Homes	Holmes-Homes	NCIS "In the Dark"	Sandhogs	Paris Hilton's British Friend	Crime Stories	NCIS	
	46	46	46	HIST	Crime Stories		degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	The Daily Fix	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	
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	48	48	48	OLN	American Gladiators							
cable variety	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends						
	206	206	206	PDX	(6:40) Blind Terror (1999, Suspense)							
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI on direct	RDI on direct						
	39	39	39	SHOW	Wife Swap							
	40	40	40	SLICE	The Mom Show							
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1 "2001"							
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: NY "Past Imperfect"							
	98	98	98	STAR	etalk	Hollywood						
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear							
	56	56	56	34 TROP	What Happen?	What Happen?						

## critics'corner

### Miss Naked Beauty

Sorry, guys, but like "How to Look Good Naked," this show isn't all about nudity. In this case, "naked" refers to the absence of cosmetics, not clothing. Gok Wan, host of the other "Naked" show, and Mylene Klass, host of "10 Years Younger" in Britain, help several promising women learn to look beautiful without powders, polishes and peroxide. 11 PM on W



### Holmes in New Orleans

When Mike Holmes found out that Brad Pitt had started the Make It Right Foundation to help rebuild New Orleans, he wanted in. See, "Make It Right" is the slogan of Holmes' company as well as his philosophy of building. This new two-part special follows Holmes and his team to New Orleans to build an energy-efficient, hurricane-proof home that knocks Pitt's socks off. 8 PM on CIHF

### Ron James: The Road Between My Ears

Comedian Ron James has crossed the country taking some very personal pokes at people, places and things from his native Nova Scotia to British Columbia. In this stand-up special, he milks a whole herd of Canadian sacred cows for laughs, including "Anne of Green Gables," Tim Hortons and whale watching. He's also got a few things to say about computers, senior citizens and religious fanatics. 9 PM on CBC

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**Leighton yes, Locklear no**

Heather Locklear may have passed on the chance to be a part of the CW's *Melrose Place* reboot, but Laura Leighton (right) — who played sassy schemer Sydney Andrews on the original Fox prime-time sudser — has said yes. [TVGUIDE.COM](http://TVGUIDE.COM)



# Poehler follows Fey's path

**Leslie Knope, if you'll forgive the pun (and even if you won't), would appear to be Amy Poehler's polar opposite.**

The character Poehler plays on her new sitcom, *Parks and Recreation* — debuting Thursday night on NBC — is an intensely ambitious, very serious-minded, mid-level civil servant in the local government of small-town Pawnee, Ind.

Or, as Poehler joked: "I (play) a spy. And I can time travel. And I'm wearing someone else's face."

The show, co-created by The Office adapters Greg Daniels and Michael Schur, has been shrouded in mystery. The comedy was initially intended to be a spin-off of the NBC hit. "(But) at the time that was being described," admits Daniels, "we didn't

have any ideas.

"At the beginning of this process," continues Schur, "We said we would try to think of ideas that were spin-offs, and if we came up with something that we liked better, we thought would be a better show, that we would do that. And this was the idea that we really got excited about."

So did its designated star, Poehler, making a some-

what reluctant transition from sketch to sitcom after a successful seven years on *Saturday Night Live* cast.

It is a career path already well trodden by Poehler's former *Weekend Update* co-anchor and *Baby Mama* co-star Tina Fey. Is there any residual resentment there?

"Yeah," Poehler deadpans. "And then I turn around and I wake her up,

and we have breakfast together."

As with Fey and *30 Rock*, Poehler has embraced the comedic consistency that comes with the challenge of the unfamiliar new format.

"I was excited about the idea of being able to turn the volume down a little bit and sit with a character for a while," she says.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Amy Poehler

## Easter Bunny battle begins

**FILM** Easter is becoming the new battleground for studios as two competing projects featuring the Easter Bunny go head to head. Sony Animation is preemptively picking up *Hip Hop*, in which the Easter Bunny decides to retire and hides out as a pet with a suburban family, turning their lives upside down. The deal happened at the same time that Illumination Entertainment purchased *I Hop* to act as its first live-action picture.

REUTERS

## Ricci returns to comedy

**FILM** Christina Ricci is Born to Be a Star.

The actress has signed on for the porn-tinged comedy that Adam Sandler co-wrote.

The story centres on a small-town nerd who stumbles upon a family secret: His quiet and demure parents were famous porn stars in the 1970s. This motivates him to leave northern Iowa for Hollywood, hoping to follow in their footsteps and fulfill his destiny as the biggest adult-film star in the world. Ricci,

the female lead, is the guy's innocent girlfriend.

The project marks a return to her more light-hearted beginnings. The actress has spent the past few years appearing in such dramas as *Black Snake Moan* and *Monster* but began her career in such movies as *Mermmaids* and *The Addams Family*.

Despite the involvement of Sandler and producing partner Jack Giarraputo, the movie is not a production of their Happy Madison banner.

REUTERS

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**Tip of the Day:** If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.  
— Henry David Thoreau

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Miley Cyrus tells Teen Vogue she's just not that into Robert Pattinson and she doesn't think her fans are either. The Disney star is getting more negative in her old age, also making some not-so-nice comments about Las Vegas. [EONLINE.COM](#)

**Miley's a Negative Nelly**

## Celebrity Buzz

### Paris declares intent to wed

**RELATIONSHIP** Paris Hilton says she's so in love with boyfriend Doug Reinhardt that the couple is ready to tie the knot after just a few months of dating. "He's going to be my husband," Hilton tells E! News. "We're best friends. It's not like we just met. We've known each other over the past year."



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NEWS

### 'Get me my Mercy': Madonna

**PEOPLE** Madonna returned to Britain "devastated and shaking" after her bid to adopt a second child from Malawi was denied, sources tell the Daily Mail.

The singer is appealing the court's decision, and faces further trouble as a man claiming to be Mercy James' biological father has stepped forward.

Madonna has reportedly told her lawyer, "Do whatever you can to get me my Mercy."

METRO  
WORLD NEWS



## Faris folks on defence

**PEOPLE** Anna Faris' parents are her biggest fans and spend their spare time writing information about the actress online, [femalefirst.co.uk](#) reports.

Faris' mother and father wrote her biography on movie site IMDb.com and also frequently fire off emails to journalists and critics who write unfavourable articles about the actress.



She tells the New York Daily News, "It's mortifying. I love them so much. They're very proud and supportive, but they do

stuff like that all the time. My dad has written to various publications defending me."

And Faris reveals there are downsides to having such techno-savvy parents: "Dad Googles me all the time, which sometimes gets me into trouble. If I've had a drink too many and someone catches it, he'll know."

Faris co-stars as Seth Rogen's cosmetic counter girlfriend in the new comedy *Observe and Report*.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Jennifer's wedding paw-ty

**PEOPLE** Jennifer Hudson's pet dogs will have starring roles at her wedding, [femalefirst.co.uk](#) reports.

The singer-and-actress will wed her partner, David Otunga, soon — although she will not reveal an exact date — and wants her three Pomeranian dogs — Dreamgirl, Oscar, and Grammy — to play a big part.

She said: "I want my dogs to be in my wedding. I am so serious." Hudson also hinted her dress could be

"the most untraditional thing" about the day, adding: "Everybody comes down the aisle in a white gown. Maybe I'll give it a twist."

The Oscar-winning actress has lots of experience of marriage ceremonies because of her previous job as a wedding singer.

She added: "Anything I could sing at, I did. I've sung at a lot of weddings and seen a lot of the same things, and I want to make sure this is different — but traditional, and very, very classy."

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## Shooting mars second wedding

**PEOPLE** Gisele Bündchen married Tom Brady for a second time this weekend but the ceremony was marred by an alleged shooting at a photographer's car, [femalefirst.co.uk](#) reports.

The supermodel and her husband held a second wedding ceremony in Costa Rica on Saturday.

Photographer Yuri Cortez was taking pictures of the wedding from afar using a long lens camera.

He has filed a com-

plaint with Costa Rican authorities claiming that the couple's bodyguards accosted him and demanded he give them his camera's memory card.

He says he refused and drove away — then the security began to shoot the car and the bullets went smashed his windows.

He said: "I put my foot on the accelerator and I heard the gunshot that shattered the rear window and broke the windshield. It very nearly hit me."

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## Farrah's cancer fight

**PEOPLE** Farrah Fawcett's physician and a producer who works with her have released statements about her condition, following the news that the actress, 62, has been hospitalized in Los Angeles. Her current treatment is the latest setback in her long battle with cancer, first diagnosed in 2006, [people.com](#) reports.

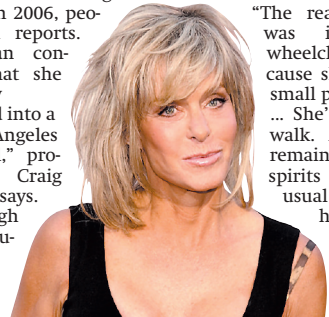
"I can confirm that she recently checked into a Los Angeles hospital," producer Craig Nevius says. "Although it is usually against her na-

ture to correct false or exaggerated stories ... Farrah is allowing this statement out of appreciation for her fans, who have offered their constant support throughout her fight..."

Though Fawcett was photographed in a wheelchair, her physician, Lawrence Piro, said:

"The reason she was in that wheelchair is because she had a small procedure ... She's able to walk. And she remains in good spirits with her usual sense of humour."

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## Aniston back on the market?

**PEOPLE** Jennifer Aniston was spotted "checking out" a handsome stranger on the weekend, [femalefirst.co.uk](#) reports.

The actress, who parted ways with John Mayer last month, showed she was over the musician when a mystery hunk caught her attention at Paul McCartney's charity concert in New York.

A source said: "Jennifer

checked out a cute guy walking in. She looked him up and down twice. She flashed him a beaming smile but got pulled back into a conversation with her girlfriends."

The 40-year-old star, who

watched Jerry Seinfeld's stand-up before arriving at the charity concert, spent the evening laughing with a group of friends.

The source added: "The girls talked for a bit about how elated Jennifer was to have free time again."


Jennifer laughed out loud at that, as though it were an inside joke.

"She was having so much fun. John and their issues seemed like the last thing on her mind."

It has been claimed Aniston dumped the singer because he wasn't ready to have children and had been spending too much time on the Internet.


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# ROCK LIKE NO ONE IS WATCHING.

**Q104... Meaty rock.**

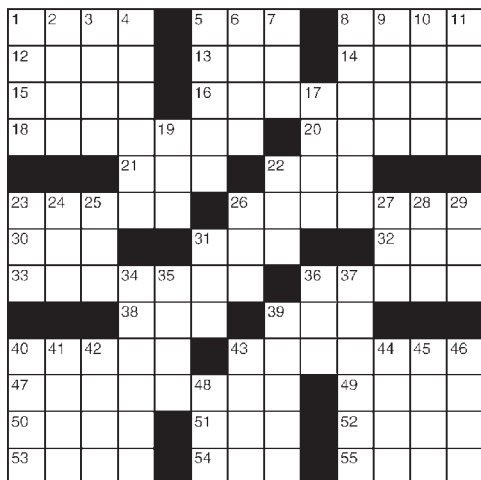






For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: [metronews.ca/food](http://metronews.ca/food)

## Take Five



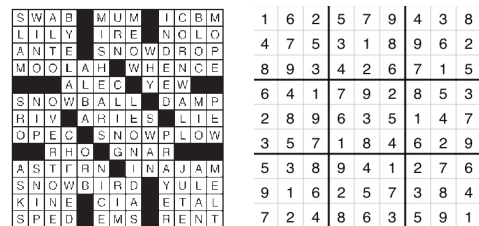
### Crossword across

- |                               |                        |                          |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Branch                      | Brown                  | wed to a Spice Girl      |
| 5 Scoundrel                   | 22 Sky safety org.     |                          |
| 8 Break suddenly              | 23 Unkempt             | 47 Moorish kings' palace |
| 12 Hebrew month               | 26 German city         | 49 Emanation             |
| 13 Bullring cry               | 30 Noah's craft        | 50 Venetian blind piece  |
| 14 Ringlet                    | 31 Monkey suit         | 51 "Of course"           |
| 15 Apportion (out)            | 32 Back talk           | 52 Harness part          |
| 16 CB kin                     | 33 "The Firm" author   | 53 "Thirty days — ..."   |
| 18 Nassau's island group      | 36 Ballroom dance      | 54 Ram's mate            |
| 20 Mountain nymph             | 38 Whammy              | 55 Wood-shaping tool     |
| 21 "The Da Vinci Code" author | 39 Has the ability     |                          |
|                               | 40 "Monopoly" building |                          |
|                               | 43 Soccer star         |                          |

### Crossword down

- |                             |                          |                              |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Child of 54-Across        | 22 Office transmission   | place                        |
| 2 Concept                   | 23 Periodical, briefly   | 36 Pouch                     |
| 3 Geometry or algebra       | 24 Mess up               | 37 Turkey's capital          |
| 4 Rye and pumpnickel        | 25 Schuss                | 39 Stop                      |
| 5 "Yankee Doodle Dandy" man | 26 Drone                 | 40 Corned beef recipe        |
| 6 "Sad to say ..."          | 27 Einstein's birthplace | 41 — podrida                 |
| 7 Obama, for ex.            | 28 Cage component        | 42 Just one of those things? |
| 8 Sacred beetle             | 29 Univ. transcript stat | 43 Concoct, in a way         |
| 9 Undraped                  | 31 April 15 payment      | 44 Coloured                  |
| 10 Met melody               | 34 Scabbard              | 45 N. Mex. neighbour         |
| 11 Trudge                   | 35 Captain's             | 46 Lion's pride?             |
| 17 Wander                   |                          | 48 "See ya"                  |
| 19 Spring time              |                          |                              |

### PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



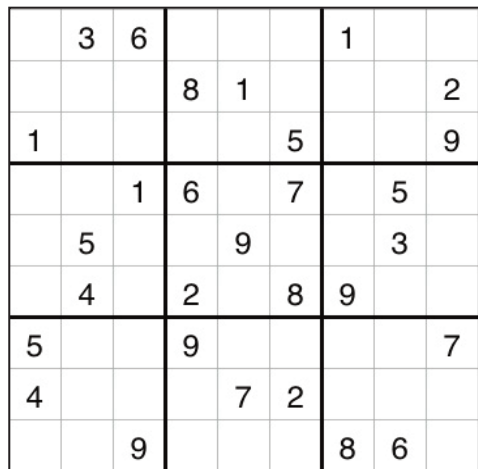
Find today's answers + play more games at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

**SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:**  
 Under 13 min ..... Genius  
 13-17 min ..... Scholar  
 17-21 min ..... Smart  
 21-25 min ..... Not bad  
 25+ min ..... Keep practising

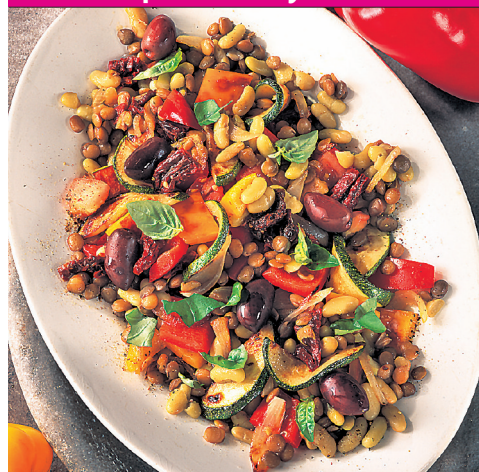
### Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



### Metro Recipe of the Day



### Warm Flageolet and Charred Vegetable Salad

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 red pepper
- 1 yellow pepper
- 1 medium onion
- 2 medium zucchini
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
- 1 can (15oz / 425g) flageolet beans
- 1 can (15oz / 425g) lentils
- 2 large sprigs of basil
- 2 medium tomatoes
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) crushed sun-dried tomatoes in oil
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) balsamic vinegar
- Salt and black pepper
- 12 large black olives as garnish

#### METHOD:

1. Rinse, deseed and roughly chop peppers. Peel and slice onion. Trim, rinse, dry and thinly slice zucchini.
2. Heat oil in large frying pan and brown peppers,

onion and zucchini over high heat, stirring occasionally.  
 3. Meanwhile, drain and rinse canned beans and lentils. Rinse, dry and tear basil leaves, and rinse, dry and roughly chop fresh tomatoes.  
 4. Add beans and lentils to pan, stir gently, then add basil, fresh tomatoes, sun-dried tomatoes and vinegar.  
 5. Season mixture, then let heat through, stirring well. Stone olives if necessary.  
 6. Turn salad into warm dish, garnish with olives and serve immediately.

**SERVES 4**



## Horoscopes

## AVATAR VENUS

**ARIES**  
**MARCH 21-APRIL 20**  
 Buy yourself a sweet smelling treat. Collect your allies and take action. Say nice things about a silly girl.

**TAURUS**  
**APRIL 21-MAY 21**  
 Get in touch with a realistic person. Find a new place to scavenge stuff. A dinner companion has trouble in transit.

**LIBRA**  
**SEPT 23-OCT 23**  
 People are overlooking a good chance. An intolerant person fails unconditionally. Someone's teasing creates conflicts.

**SCORPIO**  
**OCT 24-NOV 22**  
 Avoid recklessness and devise a budget. Try to keep both feet on the ground. Interactions will focus on domestic life.

**GEMINI**  
**MAY 22-JUNE 21**  
 A friend calls around after a weird event. Count your blessings when an assessor makes a mistake. Put the finishing touch on a pep talk.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
**NOV 23-DEC 21**  
 Tacky gossip makes conversation difficult. A lonely person wants some attention. A man's egotism will increase rapidly.

**CANCER**  
**JUNE 22-JULY 22**  
 Don't despair about what happened in the past. A shameless troll will inspire you. Admiration will interest a drama queen.

**CAPRICORN**  
**DEC 22-JAN 20**  
 An equity problem flares up. An antique is found in a friend's home. Someone's compliment leads to tantrums.

**LEO**  
**JULY 23-AUG 23**  
 A strong desire opens up possibilities. The prospect of cash assistance is revealed. Great pleasure is found when a bad situation ends.

**AQUARIUS**  
**JAN 21-FEB 18**  
 Your humour is admired by a romantic person. Say something about a dream. Concentrate on creating prosperity for all.

**VIRGO**  
**AUG 24-SEPT 22**  
 A dynamic person can't be moved to be with you. You're accused of not listening. Unwind with a companion and discuss your days of glory.

**PISCES**  
**FEB 19-MARCH 20**  
 Encourage a buddy to start a fitness program. Flee from a captivating person. Inform others when a decision is made.

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BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words like FAT CAT and DOUBT TROUBLE, and they'll fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Former spouse inspects (1)
2. "Psycho" motel room charges (1)
3. Canon rival desktop graphic (2)
4. Cheeky pipsqueak (1)
5. Actress Witherspoon's tenant papers (2)
6. Be a bother to a feudal tenant (2)
7. On-the-job advancement ruckus (3)

Answers: 1. EX-HUSBAND 2. PSYCHO 3. CANON 4. PIP 5. TENANT 6. BOOTHER 7. RUCKUS

**This day in history**

APRIL 7, 1795: France adopts the metre as the basic measure of length.

APRIL 7, 1868: Thomas D'Arcy McGee, one of the Canadian Fathers of Confederation is assassinated by the Irish, in one of the few Canadian political assassinations, and the only one of a federal politician.

APRIL 7, 1906: Mount Vesuvius erupts and devastates Naples.

APRIL 7, 1940: Booker T. Washington becomes the first African American to be depicted on a United States postage stamp.

APRIL 7, 1948: The World Health Organization is established by the United Nations.

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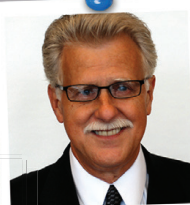
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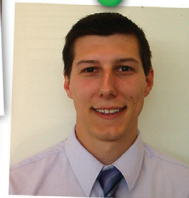
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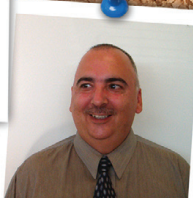
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